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CLASSIFICATION SECRETNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

IC. Soviet Troops Returning to Altenburg

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prior to 19 October 1953

DATE OF CONTENT

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12 November 1953

DATE PREPARED

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & DATE)

REMARKS

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1. On 19 October 1953, the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse in Altenburg quartered 500 to 600 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epauletts with artillery and motor transport insignia. On 10 October, source observed about 25 motor vehicles including 12 trucks, the remainder

2. On 19 October, the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse quartered an estimated 500 to 600 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epauletts with artillery insignia. Intensive activities were seen in the billeting area on 17 October. Twelve trucks, 1 radio truck, 1 field kitchen, and 1 ambulance were parked in front of the garages. About 350 soldiers were doing maintenance work on motor vehicles. A total of about 40 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were seen in the yard of the installation. About 500 soldiers were observed engaged in various activities in the billeting area on 18 October. [REDACTED] noticed that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had been set up.

[REDACTED] identified near the installation. About 6:30 p.m. on 18 October, [REDACTED] 24 M4, 6 trucks, and 1 field kitchen, and subsequently 5 boxcars with personnel and an unidentified number of flatcars loaded with about 25 trucks were unloaded at the railroad station. The unit left for the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse. At 7:50 p.m., another shipment of 14 prime movers, 14 model 1937 152-mm howitzers and 5 trucks arrived at the station. Two of the guns proceeded to the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse.

On 19 October, [REDACTED] 25X1

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Major elements of the 38th Army AT Arty Brig stationed at the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse had been at the Ohrdruf troop training grounds since mid-August 1953. In September, the same source observed that the barracks installation involved only quartered an estimated 250 to 300 men. [REDACTED] The present report indicates that elements of the unit involved had returned to the Altenburg post prior to 19 October.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. The return of the 43d Army Arty Brig to its permanent station at the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse was also observed by another source. [REDACTED] The unit is equipped with the type of gun observed at the Altenburg railroad station on 16 October. It is believed that the tents had been erected in order to let them dry after they had been used during maneuvers.

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